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73. Notes by Mr. Hall.—It is well known that the name *Bugloss* comes from the Greek *βούγλωσσος*, and means "Ox-tongue;" but Dioscorides relates (I have not the work at hand, and cannot remember precisely the place) that the Greek name is only a translation of the Phœnician "*Haleshon Eleph*," a name the Carthaginians applied to an herb they used medicinally. The name, any Hebraist will immediately see, means "the tongue of ox," or as we would say, "the ox-tongue."

Some years since, I found in Sennet, Cayuga County, a number of exceedingly large specimens of *Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, Fée. On burning some broken pieces, after I had dried them, I noticed that instead of leaving an ordinary ash, each piece left a white globule of nearly pure carbonate of potash. I then took a whole frond and set one end on fire, holding the other, when a little white globule of  $\text{KO}_2\text{CO}_2$  followed up the burning end, hissing and boiling and increasing as it went on, and attaining the size of a very large pin-head by the time the frond had burned up to my fingers; but no other ash appeared. I repeated the experiment several times with the same result, and have since tried specimens from other localities, and have often found that the fern would thus burn entirely up, with nothing solid left but a white globule of carbonate of potash. How pure the salt was I cannot say, as I only satisfied myself of its main character. I ought to mention that the soil in which the specimens first mentioned grew was mainly formed of decayed wood.

74. The Willows of Amherst, Mass.—All the common species are abundant, six or seven sometimes being in close proximity.

*Salix discolor* shows its catkins soon after the first of April, and is rapidly followed by *S. humilis*, *tristis* and *sericea*, these by *S. livida* and *cordata*, and still later by *S. lucida* and *nigra*. Several varieties of *S. fragilis* and *alba* are cultivated for hedges and other purposes. *S. myrtilloides* is found in adjoining towns, and *S. longifolia* on the Connecticut river farther north.

It is important that the place each species holds in Anderson's arrangement should be known, but it is sufficiently puzzling to assign each its place according to Gray's Manual, and the more so, as the term "species," in many cases, really means "group," and often a very comprehensive one.

1. *Salix discolor*, Muhl., as found here is reasonably constant as described, and the ordinary forms are readily recognized in flower. The mature leaves occasionally retain some pubescence beneath, and can hardly be told from the similar leaves of *S. humilis* except by their being serrate. Old bushes have often exceedingly small leaves.

2. *Salix humilis*, Marsh., seems to be a convenient name for all the protean forms occurring between undoubted *S. discolor* and *S. tristis*.

One form, with slender, dark twigs and thin leaves, growing in the shade, is very like *S. discolor*. A second, with vigorous, gray, downy shoots, numerous and thick leaves, very woolly beneath, and

with large stipules, cannot be mistaken, while by the side of it is a third, with smooth yellow twigs, whose leaves alone determine it.

Still another form has narrow leaves, much like those of *S. tristis*, though thinner and less hoary, while the catkins are very small and globular, and might make a pretty good species.

3. *S. tristis*, Ait., is less common than the preceding, which is always found in close proximity. It grows in large, low clumps, with slender shoots often two or three feet in length, and has a less upright habit than any other. The ordinary form is readily detected, but the connection between these last two species is so close that the distinctions given seem to be more of degree than of kind.

4. *S. sericea*, Marshall, is plainly marked. Does its allied species *S. petiolaris*, Smith, occur in New England, and are they more than varieties of one typical form?

5. *S. cordata*, Muhl., is another polymorphous group. The broad, cordate leaves are more common on the thrifty shoots, and a beginner may as well forget that the name has any significance, as he gathers the narrow lanceolate leaves, often the only ones to be found. The fruit is the only constant quantity.

6. *S. livida*, Wahl., var. *occidentalis*, is usually true to its name, though the leaves vary greatly in hoariness, the prominent veins however remaining. Like *S. discolor*, when old or stunted, its very small leaves render it easy to confound the two.

7. *S. lucida*, Muhl., is widely distributed through the town, but occurs mostly in single bushes, and those nearly all staminate. The form with broad leaves, somewhat glutinous and drying dark, is the most common. The other, with lanceolate and thicker leaves, somewhat pubescent beneath, is less abundant. It is our most elegant willow.

8. *S. nigra*, Marsh., is common and without much variation.

9. *S. fragilis*, L. There are two and perhaps three varieties found in the hedge-rows.

10. *S. alba*, L., var. *vitellina* and var. *cærulea* both occur, but as the staminate trees are not cultivated it is not easy to get complete herbarium specimens, or study any introduced willows to advantage. Perhaps some benevolent botanist will offer to supply this defect in our collections.

The *Manual* tells us *S. livida* has its anthers frequently transformed into imperfect ovaries. This is true also of *S. humilis*, *discolor*, and *cordata*. The "*cordata*" ovaries are quite perfect and make the bush look as if in full fruit.

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75. Humming-bird.—I was reminded the other day of the story told by Pliny, of the painter Zeuxis, who represented a bunch of grapes so naturally that the birds flew at the picture to eat the fruit. My, friend, Mrs. P. W., told us that a gentleman, the Rev. Mr. P., was sitting on the piazza of her house with his feet encased in a pair of worked slippers, adorned with some highly-colored flowers, and that she saw a humming-bird repeatedly pick at the flowers, in the